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WAR ON PHOSPHORUS.

European Countries That Prohibit Its Use in the Manufacture of Matches.

"Strike-anywhere" matches are in imminent danger of expulsion from the face of the earth. They have come into disfavor in nearly every country in Europe. Holland, Belgium, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Sweden, Russia and England have taken measures to minimize the evils arising from their manufacture and use; the Danish government forbade both their production and consumption in that country 30 years ago, but the most severe blow has been struck by the Swedish government, which represents one of the largest match-manufacturing countries in the world. Following the example of Denmark, the Swedish parliament has, after years of hard fighting, prohibited the production, importation, consumption and exportation of the ordinary phosphorus match, and that prohibitory law goes into effect, says the Boston Transcript.

The United States and Italy appear to be the only countries of importance which, still indifferent toward the elsewhere recognized dangers, permit the manufacture and use of this match without special government rules and regulations. There are three essential arguments against the match; namely, the danger of fires starting through the careless handling of matches, the ready means of poisoning which is placed in the hands of everybody by their unrestricted sale, because the yellow phosphorus in the match head is highly poisonous. England has done more than any other country to expose all these dangers, and she has enacted strict regulations that will minimize some of the evils which were possible a few years ago, and from which the match-makers themselves suffered more than any other class of people. In the early part of 1898 the attention of the home office was directed to the danger attending the manufacture of lucifer matches as carried on in the United Kingdom. It was found that certain cases of phosphorus necrosis among the work-people had been intentionally concealed, and that others had escaped record. It became known then that Switzerland was preparing to follow the example of Denmark in prohibiting the use of the yellow phosphorus match, while Belgium had offered a substantial reward for the discovery of an effective "strike-anywhere" match made without yellow phosphorus. In France renewed efforts were made to find a substitute. Improved methods of manufacture, claiming to secure safety by largely replacing hand labor in the dangerous processes by machinery, had been introduced in America. It was realized that if the use of yellow phosphorus was to be continued more stringent control would be necessary. Prof. Thorpe and Prof. Oliver were requested to make an inquiry and report upon the subject, and in order to obtain the fullest information they visited France, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany and Austria. Information was obtained also from the United States, Russia, Italy and Switzerland. They made an exhaustive report, which may have had something to do with the prompt conclusion of the match war in Sweden, with a thorough defeat for the yellow phosphorus match. In England, however, it resulted merely in stricter regulations.

The Coming Engineer.
The engineer of the twentieth century will have need of all the knowledge education can bring. The nineteenth century skimmed the cream of invention; what was on the surface has been appropriated. James Watt made it impossible anyone should have quite so brilliant a record as himself, and yet his master stroke of invention, the separate condenser, did not need abstruse scientific attainments, although Watt was essentially scientific in his methods. So each successful worker in the field of invention does something to exhaust the soil and render needful higher fertilization for further productivity. New vistas, however, are constantly being opened out, and to continue our analogy, we have something like the rotation of crops in the changing instruments by which the engineer attains his ends. It is becoming more and more evident that the day of the uneducated engineer, the man who by mere force of genius accomplished results which have changed the face of nature, is being replaced by the epoch of the skilled master of methods in applied science.—The Engineer.

Mortgaging the Bad Lands.
In consequence of the abandonment of lands in the arid region there is now a deserted belt, on which are situated empty towns and vacant homesteads. New England, which has lent most of the money for the building of the west, lost enormous sums by the desertion of these farms. The shrewd New Englanders had for so long a period found excellent security and high interest-paying investments in western farm mortgages that, being ignorant of arid-land conditions, they readily offered their cash to help the settlers of the plains. In many cases clever swindlers, realizing what was sure to happen, took up homesteads merely for the purpose of putting mortgages on them, after which they abandoned them.—Saturday Evening Post.

Knew the Ropes.
"I suppose," said the tenderfoot to Two-Tooth Thompson, "I suppose that you are what we easterners call a 'bad man.'"
"Well, I don't exactly know," replied Mr. Thompson, "but I'll say this for myself, I don't need no guide when I'm huntin' fer trouble."—Baltimore American.

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